



CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

January 22, 2008

2008 JAN 23 AM 11:34

Dennis J. DeVany  
Chief, Essential Air Service Division, X-53  
Room W86-308  
Office of Aviation Analysis  
Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. DeVany:

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) issued ORDER 2007-12-25 on December 21, 2007 selecting Air Midwest, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Mesa Air Group, Inc d/b/a US Airways Express to provide essential air service to Manhattan, Kansas for a two year period beginning March 1, 2008.

On January 21, 2008 Mesa Air Group, acting for Air Midwest, Inc., served notice upon USDOT of its intent to discontinue scheduled subsidized Essential Air Service between Manhattan, KS and Kansas City, MO effective April 20, 2008. In accordance with 14 C.F.R. § 323, the City of Manhattan is objecting to the termination of essential air service to the Manhattan Regional Airport. The City of Manhattan requests USDOT prevent Air Midwest, Inc. from discontinuing service at Manhattan until, under established procedures, a suitable replacement carrier can be found.

ORDER 2007-12-25 selected Air Midwest, Inc. to provide Manhattan with three nonstop round trips a day with a 19-seat aircraft to Kansas City. This level of service does not adequately serve the region. We request USDOT consider subsidizing four daily flights to better meet the needs of the community. Load Factors at Manhattan were very strong in 2007 where the airport realized a 6% increase in enplanements over 2006. In their recent proposal to USDOT Air Midwest, Inc. had requested a subsidy of \$19.00 per passengers which is one of the lowest subsidy requirements in the nation under the EAS program. Demand continues to be strong and as such, the City of Manhattan requests that future Requests for Proposals (RFPs) issued by USDOT no longer tie Manhattan with the community of Salina, KS. Combining service to the two communities only resulted in lowering seat availability for both communities.

If you should need additional information regarding this objection, please don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you for this opportunity to respond to Air Midwest's Notice of Intent to Terminate service, and for your continued support and management of the Essential Air Service program.

Sincerely,



Tom Phillips  
Mayor

08007  
TP/PV/dls

#### Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that I have this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January 2008, served the foregoing objection to the carrier filing the Notice of Intent to Terminate, and to all those who were also served that Notice.

Dennis J. DeVany  
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